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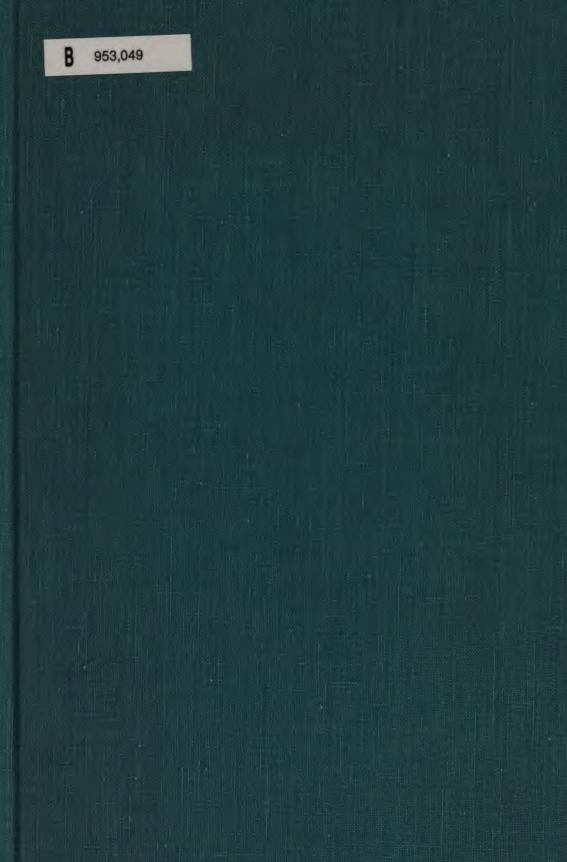
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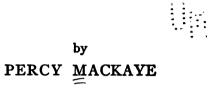


DANCE-CAROL OF THE EVERGREEN

So we will sing our even-song And dance for thee, like king and queen,— O Evergreen, dear Evergreen!— To make thy heart be merry.

(Page 42)

The EVERGREEN TREE





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D. APPLETON AND COMPANY NEW YORK LONDON 1917

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Printed in the United States of America

The EVERGREEN TREE

A Masque of Christmas Time for Community Singing and Acting

> by PERCY MACKAYE

With Scenic and Costume Designs by ROBERT EDMOND JONES

Together with THREE MONOGRAPHS ON THE MASQUE written by

the Author, the Scenic Designer,

and

і. т. е

> ARTHUR FARWELL Composer of the Music

> > C36694

-. • -

THOSE FRIENDLY THOUSANDS OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AMERICAN TOWNS AND CITIES, WHO HAVE SHARED WITH THE AUTHOR IN HIS MASQUES A COMMON DEVOTION TO THE HAPPY CAUSE OF A COMMUNAL ART

> THIS MASQUE IS DEDICATED IN CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

> > .

То

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PREFACE

Always an evergreen tree points up at a star.

Always a star looks somewhere down on the cradle of a child.

Always, once in the year, a child laughs up at evergreen boughs.

Tree, star and child are triune in the poetry of nature—a constellation of man that never sets.

The antic mirth, the naïve awe of paganism, the joy and passion of Christianity, are masks happy and tragic which the Folk Spirit of childhood has worn for ages, and shall wear for ages more, in ritual of a tree that never dies.

On the verge of No-Man's-Land, where the blasted earth reels amid war's stench and thunder; in calm cathedrals, to carolling choirs; by lonely chimney sides, or amid the young, tense assemblies of army camps, Christmas—this Christmas of our new age grows again in the ancient greenness of a little tree.

How may we, too, do it homage?

Not forgetting the old simple merriment of folk days gone by, how shall we say—and sing—to our tree something of that deep response which we feel to-day to the creative sadness of our time?

Our young men are going out to the war: our country is grappling the issue of a planet. Here is a dramatic conflict, not for us as spectators, but as participants. Here is a theme, not of the traditional theatre, but of a

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communal drama, the action of which is at once a battle and a prayer. How may we take part together in expressing such a theme, at this new Christmas time?

Surely it must be through some simple festival chiefly of song, for song is elemental to us all: a festival in which our people—young, old, rich, poor, women, men, but chiefly our young soldiers—may share, outdoors or indoors, in a ritual, democratic and devotional, on a scale great or small, simple to act and symbolize: a drama not designed for a hollow amphitheatre of spectators, but for a level-floored cathedral of communicants: a drama in which the goal of world liberty we battle for is clearly contrasted with its opposite, that we ourselves may not lose sight of our goal or swerve from it, as our common prayer, in the midst of battle. And there, as the focus-point of our festival and symbol of it—the tree of light: light of our own childhood and of the world's.

I do not know whether this simple masque will prove worthy to help in creating such a festival for our new Christmas time—I can only wish and hope that it may.

PERCY MACKAYE.

Cornish, New Hampshire, September, 1917.

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PERSONS AND GROUPS In the Order of their Appearance

PERSONS*

ELF GNOME TREE WOLF BEAR LION **IOSEPH** MARY (Mute) SHEPHERD CAPTAIN OF THE HOST OF HEROD HEROD BELSHASAR MELCHIOR CASPAR RUTH **CLAUS** SONG (Mute) SORROW (Mute) DEATH **POVERTY** (Mute)

GROUPS

SHEPHERDS HOST OF HEROD FOLLOWERS OF THE THREE KINGS OUTCASTS: FOLLOWERS OF SONG, SORROW AND POVERTY

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^{*} For Army Camp productions, in camps where it may not be practicable to have women as acting principals, the two mute female figures, MARY and SONG, may—if necessary—be omitted, and RUTH be acted by some well-skilled youth, as was the custom in Elizabethan days. The part of TREE, in any production, may be acted either by a young woman or by a young man (in small-scale productions preferably by a young woman). ELF and GNOME are preferably acted by children: a girl and a boy, or if desirable—by two boys. In Chorus A, and in the first Semi-Chorus of the Outcasts, choir boys may, if need be, take the places of women.

CHORUSES AND CAROLS

CHORUSES*

First Action Fourth Action Fourth Action Fifth Action Fifth Action Sixth Action Ninth Action Twelfth Action

II. (A,2) III. (A,3) IV. (B,1) V. (A,4 B,2) Fifth and Eleventh VI. and X. (B,3 and 4) VII. and VIII. (A,5 and 6) Glory and Serenity. IX. (A,7) XI. (A, 8 and B, 5)

I. (A.1)

Chorus of the Wilderness. Light of the World. The Star. The Might of Herod. The Wrath of Herod. Song of the Persecuting Host. Dirge of the Outcasts. Chorus of the Christmas Tree.

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Part I: The Pedlar-King.

Part II: The Tree.

Part III: The Child.

CAROLS*

Second Action Third Action Fourth Action Fourth Action Seventh Action Eighth Action

Eighth Action

Tenth Action

Joseph's Carol. I.

- Fairy Round. 2.
- Luck Song. 3.
- The Tree-Child's Lullaby. 4.
- "We Three Kings of Orient Are." 5.
- 6. The Bell, the Sword and the Laughter.
- Dance-Carol of the Evergreen. 7.
- 8. Ballad of the Kings and the Pedlar.

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^{*}In modified small-scale productions of the Masque, where it may be impracticable to render all the music in its completeness, the Carols alone may be sung. In that event, the Choruses should not be wholly omitted, but may be rendered as Choral Poems spoken in chanted speech by properly qualified leaders (at Stage A and Stage B), as indicated in the "Guide to the Evergreen Tree" pamphlet, referred to in the Announcements on the last page of this volume.

THE COMMUNITY CHORUS

is in two divisions, as follows:

CHORUS A, in White: Men and Women: located near Stage A.

CHORUS B, in Red: Men: located near Stage B.

TIME AND PLACE

TIME

The Time is laid on a night shortly after the birth of Christ.

PLACE*

The Masque takes place in Four Regions, indicated by Two Stages, and Two Aisles, the Audience being located between the two stages.

Stage A represents the Place of Outcasts: a knoll, with path, in the Wilderness, before the Evergreen Tree.

Stage B (located opposite Stage A) represents the Place of Empire: the Gateway and Steps to the Palace of Herod.

Aisle I (located on the right of Stage B, as one faces Stage A) represents a Pathway from the land of Herod into the Wilderness.

Aisle II (located on the left of Stage B and parallel to Aisle I) represents another Pathway into the Wilderness.

* See Gr	ound Plan	a opposite	page 69.
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From the Gospel of Saint Matthew: Chapter II

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judzea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came Wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled. . . .

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. . .

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Now when they were departed, behold an angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I tell thee: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

And he arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt...

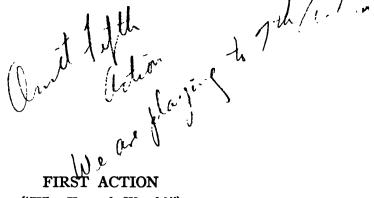
Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the Wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the borders thereof, from two years old and under.

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("Who Keepeth Watch?")

STAGE A: THE PLACE OF OUTCASTS

I I

T is night.

In a dark place of the wilderness, a tree is growing.

which—left and right—a path leads down away into the desert.

At one side, in shadow, sit ELF and GNOME.

At centre, in starlight, stands TREE, half emerged from dim boughs.

CHORUS

Who keepeth watch in the lone wilderness
For the coming of a sign?
Who sendeth her roots down into the dark places
Seeking the springs of life,
And is restored:
And lifteth up her boughs in prayer of quiet,
And lo, they are filled with starlight?
The Tree: the Tree keepeth watch for the coming of a sign.

First Chorus: A,1. Chorus of the Wilderness

I

Who waiteth very patiently in the night desert For dawn of a new morrow? And the wild beasts draw near unto her: they are tired But none is afraid, For her lap is like to a mother's, where little children Play till they weary and sleep: There dryads bring her their dreams, And the fairy folk are at home.— Who liveth very old, alive with young green, And waketh her heart with song for the coming of light? The Tree: the Tree: The Tree keepeth watch in her heart for the coming of light.

(A long wailing cry resounds from the dark.)

THE VOICE

Hi-ih!

1_

ELF

What's that?

GNOME

That is Wolf. He's coming from the desert. He is lonely.

ELF

Why is he coming here?

2

- 1

GNOME

Tree is here. All the creatures come to Tree, when they are lonely.

ELF

Even Tree seems lonely to-night, With eyes that look far away.— Tree, what are you watching for?

TREE

A star.

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ELF

But the sky is filled with starlight.

TREE

I am watching for a new star. I have been waiting for it a long while. I think I shall see it again soon.

GNOME

Again?-Have you seen it before?

TREE

Yes: once: One night, not long ago, I saw it rising in the east, across the desert. It made a path of wonderful shining. Then it stood still in the sky—far over yonder!— And seemed I heard shepherds singing.

(WOLF enters.)

WOLF

Hi-ih! It's a cold night. I want to come out of the wind.

GNOME

Ask Tree.

WOLF

High-o! Green-and-alive! Can a fellow come out of the wind, here?

TREE

Welcome, Wolf.

WOLF

And what may you three be talking about?

ELF

A star.

GNOME

A new star in the east.

(Noises of puffing and growling are heard.)

THE NOISES

Ooff!—Ah-yarrr!

ELF

Who now?

GNOME

That's Bear and Lion coming. They're tired and sleepy.

> (BEAR and LION enter. Bear carries a bee-hive; Lion, a large bone.)

> > BEAR

Ooff! Ooff! Where's a hollow to sleep in?

GNOME

Ask Tree.

TREE

Welcome, Bear! Break a bough for your pillow.

WOLF

(Edging away)

Hi! Not my tail!

LION

Ah-yarrr! I'm tired of killing. Where can I bury my bone?

GNOME

Ask Tree!

TREE

Welcome, Lion. Lay your head on my roots and rest.

LION

Yarrr! It's a night of cold. You kill nothing, Bear: how do you keep so fat?

WOLF

His belly is full of wild honey.— Here! he's soft and round: Keep him in the middle.

BEAR

Three are warmer than one. Go to sleep.

(WOLF and LION lean against BEAR. Slowly all fall into slumber and low snoring.)

THE THREE (Murmuring together) Hi-yo!—Ooff! Ooff!—Ah-yarrr!

ELF

And why do you wish the star to come, Tree?

TREE

Because of my dream.

GNOME

What dream?

TREE

Because I have dreamed a new star will come in the night: And will gather all the old stars out of the heaven To sparkle upon my branches. And there they shall sing all together. And in the midst of them the new star Shall laugh aloud. Shall laugh like a young child, And my boughs shall be as sheltering arms to make him a home. And there we shall dwell no more, dreadful in the desert. Where wild beasts kill one another, and weary of killing; But there shall be carolling of stars and a young child's

And there shall be no more lonely things;

laughter:

And I shall be the angel in his home.

ELF

The wild beasts are fast asleep.

GNOME

Nothing is stirring in the world.

ELF

Yes: look! I think I see—

GNOME

Where?

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ELF

Don't you see—there! through the dark: It is moving towards us.

GNOME

I think I hear some one singing.

ELF

It is drawing nearer.

TREE

O my dear dream!

ELF AND GNOME

Is it the new star?

TREE

Yes; but it has fallen down out of the heaven. It has made itself very small and lowly. It has made itself into a little lantern, To light the feet of them who wander in the wilderness.

ELF

See!

GNOME

Hark.

SECOND ACTION

(The Lantern in the Desert)

AISLE I: A PATHWAY INTO THE WILDERNESS

OVING toward the Tree, a Procession enters singing.

First comes JOSEPH in white. He holds high a tall staff, from which a swinging lantern shines. Behind him comes, in pale blue, MARY, attended by SHEPHERDS in white. These carry lighted candles and long crooks, and they are ranged about a MANGER, borne in their midst.

JOSEPH

As Joseph I was walking, I heard an angel sing: Carol I. Joseph's Carol

JOSEPH AND SHEPHERDS

"This night shall be the birthnight Of Christ our heavenly King.

His birth-bed shall be neither In housen nor in hall, Nor in the place of paradise, But in the oxen's stall.

He neither shall be rocked In silver nor in gold, But in the wooden manger That lieth on the mould.

He neither shall be clothèd In purple nor in pall, But in the fair white linen That usen babies all."

JOSEPH

As Joseph I was walking Thus did the angel sing;

JOSEPH AND SHEPHERDS

And Mary's Son at midnight Was born to be our King.

THIRD ACTION

("Somebody Is Coming!")

STAGE A



REE and the FAIRIES have watched and listened eagerly.

TREE

(To ELF and GNOME)

Look, look! The light is coming here. Rouse up the wild beasts, And let us make a welcome for these wanderers.

> TREE, ELF, GNOME (Sing in a round)

Wolf, Bear, Lion! Wolf, Bear, Lion!

> Are you awake? Are you awake?

> > Somebody is coming! Somebody is coming!

> > > 11

Carol 2. Fairy Round

LION

(Waking and rubbing his eyes, joins in the round)

Who can it be? Who can it be?

BEAR

(Rolling to his feet with an "Ooff!" imitates LION)

Let's go and see! Let's go and see!

WOLF, BEAR AND LION (Scrambling down the path)

Hi-ih! Ooff! Yarrr!

TREE

Peace, wild folk! Make a welcome for these new comers.

LION

(Grinning savagely)

Welcome, they are! My mouth waters for them.

WOLF

(To LION)

Hi! Let me pass. I'll pick a bone with you—after the meat's gone.

BEAR

You talk loud, but you keep your tail between your legs.

WOLF

That's more than you can do-with yours!

LION

Now for a new kill!

FOURTH ACTION (The Light-Child)

APPROACHING-SPACE and STEPS A; Then, STAGE A

PPROACHING along the path, JOSEPH and his GROUP pause, confronted by the BEASTS.

JOSEPH

God save you, Sir Lion!

LION Save yourself, Sir Man—if you can.

WOLF

Look sharp: there's more there behind.

BEAR

They carry a trough there. What's in it?

SHEPHERD

Keep off!—Aim your blows, fellows: strike!

(The SHEPHERDS, with their crooks, drive back the BEASTS. JOSEPH intervenes.)

JOSEPH

Stay, good Shepherds! Put away your crooks. Fear nothing, Mary.

These wild folk crave our leave to behold the Child And do Him homage.

LION

Man-child!—Yarrr!

JOSEPH

(Pausing before the Evergreen Tree)

Pray you set down the manger. Now, Sir Beasts,

And you, Elf Folk, will it please you draw near and look in?

(On either side the SHEPHERDS draw back, revealing at centre the MANGER, out from which a wonderful glow shines upward, touching the faces of the SHEPHERDS and hushing the BEASTS with awe.)

TREE

The light! The light!

CHORUS

Where sleepeth till dawn-break the light of the new Second Chorus: A,2 morrow?

Alleluia! Lo, as a babe, it sleepeth in a little manger: Light of the World! Alleluia!

> The dark is his cradle; The beasts come about him; The stars in their watches Are covered with cloud.

Home hath he none; The desert receives him— The place of outcasts And lonely things.

No sound is heard there Save shepherds singing; The lords of earth Avert their faces; Dark—dark is his cradle.

Yet surely will dawn break with light of his new morrow:

Alleluia! Yea, for the babe that sleepeth in a little manger Is Light of the World: Alleluia!

(The FAIRIES and BEASTS peer in the MANGER with awed delight. Murmuring aloud, they speak to JOSEPH.)

ELF

May we not dance for him?

GNOME

And make gambols?

LION

May I give him my bone? 'Twill make him a rare toy!

BEAR

Ooff!—If he lie in my lap, my fur will warm him.



THE LIGHT-CHILD

CHORUS

Where sleepeth till dawn-break the light of the new morrow? Alleluia! Lo, as a babe it sleepeth in a little manger: Light of the World! Alleluia!

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WOLF

Look-ee! If I wag my tail for him, he will laugh.

JOSEPH

Hush! He is asleep. Please do not wake Him.

(The BEASTS draw back.

Kneeling down with ELF and GNOME, all Five sing together.)

THE BEASTS AND FAIRIES

While this Light-Child sleeping lies, Word or murmur never wake him! But when he shall open his eyes, Mirth and antics we will make him. Amen!

Carol 3. Luck Song

JOSEPH

Thank you, friends, for your courtesies;

But now the night grows old, and we are weary of wandering.

Out of the land of Herod we are fled, and go into Egypt. Mary and Joseph are we, and Jesus, the little Child,

Whom these good Shepherds bear with us in his birthcradle.

Now we must needs find shelter for the babe to rest.

TREE

Now welcome, Mary and Joseph, and Jesus, the little Child!

Rest you, I pray, with these Shepherds, under my boughs.

JOSEPH

Gentle Tree, you say kindly.

SHEPHERD

(To MARY, with gladness)

Here Herod can never harm Him, Lady dear.

TREE

Who is Herod, that he would harm a little child?

JOSEPH

Herod is lord of the world—there, in the land we have fled from.

Mighty is he, yet afraid: for out of the east Three Wise Men followed a star to this poor manger, Telling Herod a little child should inherit his kingdom. Mighty is Herod, yet trembles now on his throne, And wishes this Little One death.

SHEPHERD

But shall never find Him!

JOSEPH

Nay, for none in Herod's kingdom knows Where Child and Mother and Manger and guiding Star Are vanished away. Only you, dear folk of the desert, Share now our secret.

TREE

And shall ward it full well. So enter into my shelter, with your good Shepherds, Joseph and Mary and Manger-Child—and rest.

(TREE and MARY pass behind within shadow. As the SHEPHERDS with the MANGER follow, a sweet, lulling VOICE sings from within.)

1

THE VOICE Chome

Babe of my love, Lull thee to rest! Bird of my heart, Night is thy nest.

> Evergreen bough, Shadow my babe! Shelter my bird, Evergreen bough!

Star of my dreams, Soon thou wilt shine: Dream of the stars, Splendor be thine!

> Evergreen bough, Shine with my Star! Shelter his dreams, Evergreen bough!

(JOSEPH, pausing a moment before he follows, speaks to his lantern.)

Carol 4. The Tree-Child's Lullaby

JOSEPH

Now lantern, that dost hide His holy light, Show forth on high thy little Master's star!

(He blows out the lantern.

Instantly a shining Star appears on the top of the Tree. Staring upward with gestures of surprise, the CREATURES murmur aloud.)

BEASTS, ELF AND GNOME

The star! The star!

(In wonder, while the CHORUS sings, they follow after the others.)

CHORUS

Third Chorus: 1, 3. Where shineth in whiteness the star of the new The Star Master?

Alleluia!

Lo, from the tree that sheltereth a child's dreaming Shineth His star: Alleluia!

FIFTH ACTION ("Sword of the World

STAGE B: THE PLACE OF EMPIRE

ATEWAY and Steps in front of HEROD'S Palace.

With spears and in armor, the CAPTAIN and the Host of Herod are assembling.

With deep, pounding reverberation, VOICES of the male CHORUS conflict with the far, high singing of the other CHORUS, now dying away.

CHORUS

Herod—Herod—Herod—Herod, the mighty Lord of the world! Hail him, hail him, hail him Herod the Master! Bow to his will!

Fourth Chorus: B,I. The Might of Herod

His power what star can confound? Or cloud can darken his splendor, Who bindeth his brow with the lightning And girdeth his loins with the storm!

For he maketh the world of men The winnowing floor of his glory: And he weareth the mail of the Most High, And shareth the mantle of God.—

> Millions obey him, Man is his tool.

Forth on his errands Fly his red legions; Domes of his dwelling Glow in the dawn.

Fire—fire Forgeth his empire; Slaves—slaves Rear his dominion; Sowing and harvest Bleed in his furrows;

Peace is his footstool, War is his crown.

Herod—Herod—Herod—Herod, the mighty Lord of the world!

(Beside the gate, the CAPTAIN of the HOST strikes a deeptoned gong and calls aloud.)

CAPTAIN

Herod! Herod, the most High!

(HEROD comes forth with his Followers.

Clad in long robe of Tyrian purple, he wears on his head a gold helmet.

In his hand, he holds a great staff, surmounted by a globe of the world.)

HEROD

Who calls so loud at my gate?

CAPTAIN

I, Captain of the Host of Herod.

HEROD

Why do you cry on my name?

CAPTAIN

For I am come at your bidding, King of Men. Lo, we are here to do your command.

HEROD

My command I gave you, to bring unto me three Wise Men,

Kings of the East. Show them before me now.

CAPTAIN

Most High, they are not here. We have made far searching

But they are vanished away.

HEROD

Where are they gone?

CAPTAIN

No man has seen.

HEROD

Where shines their star?

CAPTAIN

Heaven has no sign.

HEROD

Where was he found—the child they worshipped?

CAPTAIN

Lowly he lay, in a poor manger.

HEROD

Now bring him before me!

CAPTAIN

He too has departed.

HEROD

My command! My command! My command! Have ye not slain him? Speak!

CAPTAIN

Herod, most High, how shall the vanished be slain? No sign gives us token

Where child and mother and manger and guiding star Are vanished away.

HEROD

Powers of my crown and throne! Am I not Herod, Herod, the Mighty? Who shall defeat my power?

(Close by, from the Place of Empire, deep CHORAL VOICES reiterate HEROD'S boasts of triumph; far off, from the Place of Outcasts, they are answered in antiphony by high, sweet CHOIRS, affirming his defeat.)



SWORD OF THE WORLD

CHORUS B

Herod, our lord and king! Who shall defy his command?

CHORUS A

A star! A star shall confound him!

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CHORUS B

Herod, our lord and king! Who shall defy his Fifth Chorus: command? B, 2 G A, 4 The Wrath of

CHORUS A

A star! A star shall confound him.

HEROD

Am I the Sword of the World, and shall a weakling disarm me?

CHORUS B

How shall the crook of a shepherd shatter the sword B, 2, Reiterative of a king?

CHORUS A

A child! A child shall disarm him!

A, 4, Antiphonal

HEROD

Hath God anointed me, yea, and shall a babe disinherit?

CHORUS B

Lo, shall the light of a manger outshine his glory B, 2, Reiterative of palaces?

CHORUS A

A dream! A dream shall survive him! A, 4, Antiphonal

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A, 4, Antiphonal

Herod B.2. Reiterative

HEROD

Now, by my host of power! he shall not escape me— This babe low-born, but for his sake shall all The hosts of childhood perish. Go forth and slay them, All newly born of women, that he among them May not escape, and all who shall resist My power, young men or old, brothers or fathers, Destroy them likewise—yea, with red fire and spear And burning sword-blade. Go! My will is God's, For I am Herod—Herod, lord of the world!

(Raising his sword, the CAPTAIN makes sign to the HOST, who lift high their spears. As the CHORUS breaks into song, they depart, marching, while HEROD reënters his palace.)

CHORUS

Sixth Chorus: B, 3. Song of the Persecuting Host Go forth, ye host of power! Lay waste, lay waste the lowly! For Herod's might is a blazing tower, And Herod's wrath is holy. Yea, Herod's wrath God's ire it hath As he rends the weak asunder. Go forth upon his fiery path Go forth, ye host, in thunder!

The strong, the strong shall reign! Unleash the hounds of pain, And loose their cry Where the wounded lie And the weakling race are slain.

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Go forth, ye host of power! Destroy, destroy the dreaming! For none may pause for a dream to flower Where Herod's might goes streaming. Yea, Herod's might God maketh His right When the weak of the world go under. Go forth upon their darkling flight, Go forth, ye host, in thunder!

SIXTH ACTION (The Befriending)

STAGE A



OW, from the Place of Outcasts, CHORAL VOICES sing, while once more JOSEPH, MARY and SHEPHERDS bearing the MAN-GER appear, coming forth from the shelter of the Evergreen. With them TREE also appears.

CHORUS

Seventh Chorus: A, 5. Glory and Serenity

Glory and serenity, Beauty of desire. Bless to-night this holy tree And our candle fire. Tree of our hearts, behold! How the dreams of a child in your boughs unfold And the weary of earth put off their pain Where the Child of our love has lain.

JOSEPH

Shepherd, the morrow's light will soon begin To wake the desert world. Here we have lain This night in quiet refuge; yet through sleep I heard far off the host of Herod rage Against this Child His kingdom. So once more Let us go forth our way, till He is safe Beyond the war-lord's might.

SHEPHERD

Yea, let us go, Yet not till we have thanked this gentle Tree.....

JOSEPH

Dear Tree, you have befriended in his need This little Child new-born. So—for His sake— Your gracious boughs shall evermore be green, Nor ever in winter lose their April sap, But freshly, at this season of His birth, They shall be fragrant of the hallowed dreams His happy heart bequeathes you.

TREE

He was welcome,

And I will deck my boughs with infant joys In his remembrance.

SHEPHERD

So we say—God keep you! And not 'Goodbye'!

JOSEPH

(To TREE)

Nay, still another token We leave with you: His star—to be henceforth A morning star of song for other children Who rest from Herod's wrath. So you shall be No more a forest sprite, but a hallow'd angel-His shining angel with a sheathed sword To guard all childhood's home. Keep here his star: Farewell

TREE

O fare you well, dear wanderers, That have fulfilled with love my lonely dream!

(With lighted candles, in processional, the SHEPHERDS with MANGER, MARY and JOSEPH depart toward the desert. While the CHORUS sings, TREE stands gazing after them.)

CHORUS

Eighth Chorus: A.6. Glory and serenity, Beauty of desire, Blend the song of men set free With their children's choir. Child of our hearts, behold! How the dark is strewn with your fairy gold And the bitter of soul lay-by their spleen Where the Tree of our love grows green.

(TREE goes within.)

Glory and Serenity

SEVENTH ACTION (The Three Wise Men)

AISLE II: ANOTHER PATHWAY INTO THE WILDERNESS

NTERING from its farther end appear, in procession, the THREE WISE MEN, and their FOLLOWERS. Lighted by torches of their Attendants, this PAGEANT OF THE KINGS moves onward in oriental splendor.

Each KING wears a crown of gold.

The crown of the youngest, BELSHASAR, is set on a turban. He is clean shaven, pale and recluse. The garb of him and his Group has a tone of asceticism.

The crown of the middle-aged, MELCHIOR, is placed on a helmet. He is thick-set, black-bearded and sharpeyed. A martial glitter touches him and his Group.

The crown of the oldest, CASPAR, is set on a high-peaked hat with wide flapping brims. His beard is silver white, his face ruddy and wrinkled with laughter. His ample gown is gorgeous with red dyes and jewels. Like him in jocular splendor are his Followers.

As they approach the place of the Tree, KINGS and FOLLOWERS come singing a carol, led by the KINGS.

BELSHASAR, MELCHIOR AND CASPAR

TRIO

We three kings of Orient are: Wending home, we traverse afar Field and fountain Moor and mountain Seeking for our lost star.

CHORUS (Of the THREE KINGS and their Followers)

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with royal beauty bright! Eastward leading, Home proceeding, Show once more Thy perfect light!

TRIO

Where the guiding glory once shone Dark we wander onward and on, Watching, hoping, Dimly groping, Seeking the light that's gone.

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Carol 4. Trio and Chorus: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"



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CHORUS

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with royal beauty bright! Eastward leading, Home proceeding, Show once more Thy perfect light!

EIGHTH ACTION ("Which. O Lord, is Wisest?")

STAGE A



HE THREE KINGS enter before the Tree, their Followers grouped on the right. As he comes, KING CASPAR lifts his voice in a a carol, solo, in which BELSHASAR and MEL-CHIOR soon join with him. Each of them, in his singing, acts out the sung carol in his bearing and movement.

CASPAR

Lord of life! how pleasant ways Are thy paths of danger, Leading down from Herod's place By an ox's manger: Lo, there lay a little child Rosy 'neath the rafter.-Ahaha! how glad he smiled! Lord, how blithe his laughter!

MELCHIOR

Laughter! Nay, I heard none laugh. Whom thou heardest—say now!

34

Carol 5. Solo and Trio. The Bell, the Sword and the Laughter

CASPAR

Him, the child, where mid the chaff He lay on the hay-mow. Sure, Belshasar, thou didst bend Nigh him and thou heardest.

BELSHASAR

Caspar, nay: I comprehend Not one thing thou wordest.

CASPAR

Ohoho! Still, Lord, I hear Music of that laughter.

MELCHIOR

Daft thou ever wert: I fear Still thou growest dafter. Nothing heard I, by my soul But a sword its clanging.

BELSHASAR

Nay, a bell, I heard it toll: On a cross 'twas hanging.

MELCHIOR

Now, am I not Melchior? By my crown its keeping! 'Twas a sword that dangled o'er Where the babe lay sleeping.

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BELSHASAR

Nay, a bell—a passing-bell: Lonely was its ringing.

CASPAR

Ahaha! I heard full well 'Merry Christmas!' singing.

CASPAR, BELSHASAR AND MELCHIOR (Sing together)

Lord, how may we wise men tell How to clothe our starkness? Song and sword and passing-bell Lure us through the darkness. Send us sign of hidden things— Thou who naught despisest! Lo, of us three crowned kings, Which, O Lord, is wisest?

VOICES OF ELF AND GNOME

(Echo in song, within) "Which, O Lord, is wisest?" (In songful laughter) Óhoho! Aháha!

CASPAR

Lord, Lord, Thy sign! Harken, wise men, my brothers: Laughter, laughter He sends us for a sign!

BELSHASAR

Nay, voices of the desert places!

MELCHIOR

Mockings of midnight!

ELF AND GNOME (Enter, laughing lyricly) Óhoho! Aháha!

CASPAR

Heigh! What is here? Elf!-Gnome!

BELSHASAR

Keep back! They are imps of evil.

MELCHIOR

Stay! Do not speak with them. Hush!

(CASPAR pays no heed, but greets the FAIRIES, who return his greeting with blithe bows.)

CASPAR

Now, neighbors, God rest you merry!

ELF

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Welcome, Wise Man!

GNOME

Welcome, Sir King!

MELCHIOR

(To Belshasar)

He speaks with them.

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BELSHASAR

(To Melchior)

Come. He is lost! (They draw away.)

GNOME

Where are you from-ye Kings?

CASPAR

From the East, returning home from Herod's land.

ELF

What went you there for to do?

CASPAR

To worship a new-born Child.

GNOME

How did you find your way?

CASPAR

We followed a star.

ELF AND GNOME (Nodding to each other) A star!

CASPAR

Yea, but our path now has lost it.— Why do ye laugh there so merry?

> ELF AND GNOME (Pointing)

Look up!

CASPAR

The star! The star! Ho, Melchior, Belshasar, look up! His star—the star we have lost—is found: Behold, it shines on the tree!

MELCHIOR

I see no star.

BELSHASAR

'Tis darkness all.

CASPAR

What! Can you see nothing shining yonder?

MELCHIOR

Nothing. Your eyes are bleary with night.

BELSHASAR

Nay, he's grown old and merry and cracked.

CASPAR

Deaf to His laughter, blind to His star! God save you, Wise Men! Let me grow old And merry and cracked, And talk with His wild, silly creatures.

(Enter WOLF, BEAR and LION.)

BELSHASAR

(To MELCHIOR)

Come farther!—Wild beasts they draw near.

(They move aside into shadow.)

CASPAR

Halloa, goodman Bear! Good even!

BEAR

(Forlornly)

Ooff! Ooff! My honey hive's empty.

LION

Look you! My bone is picked bare.

WOLF

I've never a bone left to pick, And I'm losing the fur on my tail.

CASPAR

Heigh, Master Wolf, Sir Lion! How come ye so down at heart?

LION

The Light-Child is gone on his way.

WOLF

When a fellow can't sing, he feels hungry.

CASPAR

Nay, neighbors, the Light-Child is with us; He smiles from His twinkling star Yonder, yea laughs in His light And bids us make merry together For joy of His shining.—Hoho! Bring hither my music, good fellows! Bring hither my fiddles and cakes To make Him a feast night.

(From among CASPAR'S FOLLOWERS, cakes and instruments are brought before him. To WOLF, BEAR and LION he gives each a cake; to ELF and GNOME a stringed instrument.)

Here, neighbors,

Have each of you now a sweet frosting: Here's moon-cake and sun-cake and star-cake, To mind us His birth-time. And you— Here's tune-strings to play, while we sing To praise this good tree of His star.

(TREE enters, winged, all in white.)

ELF

Look, look! Tree now is his angel.

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TREE

Welcome, dear passers in darkness! The Light-Child is gone on His way, But He leaves you His star, to make glad Your path in the wilderness.—Welcome Under His star!

CASPAR

Thank you, Tree. His star hath made merry our hearts To dance in His light—aye, to sing As we enter your place of His dreams. Come, neighbors, now blithe be our carol!

(With his sceptre for baton, CASPAR leads in dance and song WOLF, BEAR, LION, ELF and GNOME, the BEASTS holding their cakes, the FAIRIES playing their instruments. Joining in their blithe dance of devotion, the old KING clutches the great flap of his crown, to keep it from joggling off.)

ALL

(Sing, to the strongly stressed dance-rhythm)

O Evergreen, our Evergreen!
Thy boughs are brave and bright o' sheen,
Thy bark and wood are live and strong And bonny with the berry.
So we will sing our even-song
And dance for thee, like king and queen.—
O Evergreen, dear Evergreen!—
To make thy heart be merry.

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Carol 6. Dance-Carol of the Evergreen. O Even-song, our Even-song,
Thy notes this holy night belong
To Him who came to heal our teen
With love and starry leaven.
His childhood keepeth ever green
All hearts of creatures here that long—
O Even-song, dear Even-song—
To make our earth His heaven.

(Following TREE, they dance joyously within. Outside, MELCHIOR, BELSHASAR and their Followers wait in the dimness.)

BELSHASAR

A bell! I hear a bell tolling.

MELCHIOR

A sword! The clang of a sword!

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NINTH ACTION (Outcasts)

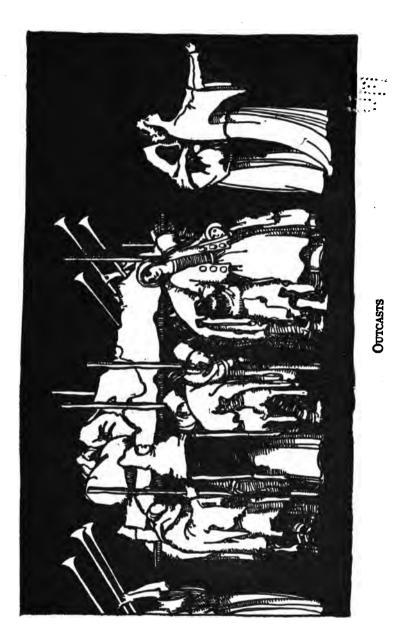
STAGE B AND AISLE I

ROM the right of HEROD'S Gate sounds the tolling of bells—from the left, the clangor of swords.

During this, HEROD comes forth and stands on his dais. There, in shifting light and darkness, HELMETED MEN with swords hurry to him, confer in pantomime and depart.

Then, as HEROD stands looking down from his height, there passes below him a PROCESSION OF OUTCASTS, which—moving from Aisle II to Aisle I—passes on along Aisle I toward the Place of the Tree. When the last of this dirgeful Pageant has gone by him, HEROD returns in darkness within the gate.

The Procession of Outcasts is accompanied by FOUR MASKED FIGURES in symbolic garb, and consists of the FOLLOWERS of these, walking before and after a stretcher, borne at the middle of the Pageant. First of the Four is a Female Figure, SONG, who leads the Procession, looking upward; last, is a Male Figure, POVERTY, bowed in stature. The other two Male Figures walk at the head



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and foot of the stretcher, the first being SORROW, staring before him, the second one—DEATH, who bears a muffled babe in his arms, lulling it, with a calm smile.

On the stretcher a Poor Man lies wounded—a PEDLAR, with his pack for a head-rest. He wears a red jerkin and great boots and a workman's cap. His beard is brown. His face is pale, his side bandaged. In one hand he holds a broken sword. The Man is CLAUS, whose Wife, RUTH, walks beside him, in peasant garb. At his other side walk two small tattered Figures—a BOY and a GIRL, their children.

As all pass slowly onward, the OUTCASTS chant their song-dirge, out of which rises momentarily, first, the Voice of RUTH, then of CLAUS, while at times Full Chorus gives deeper volume to the singing. Rhythms of tolled bells and of clanging swords accompany the two Semi-Choruses.

THE OUTCASTS

(Semi-Chorus of Women)

Bells, bells of the dark! Tongues of iron and terror! Toll no more, no more, Bells of my breaking heart! Ninth Chorus: A,7. Dirge of the Outcasts

RUTH

Beautiful I bore him, Babe of my life and milk: Wonderful I wore him, Yea, as a scarf of silk: Terrible—terrible— They tore him!

THE OUTCASTS (Semi-Chorus of Women) Bells of my breaking heart, Toll no more, no more, Tongues of iron and terror, Bells, bells of the dark!

FULL CHORUS (Men and Women) God!—God of the broken heart! Lord of the tolling bell! God, our God, if thou art, if thou art, Tell us, our Father, tell: How darkly long Shall the reign of the strong Endure, to make of Thine earth our hell, Ere thou, O Lord of the bleeding dart, Rise in Thy light, to quell?

THE OUTCASTS (Semi-Chorus of Men) Swords, swords in my soul! Tongues of fire and horror! Clang aloud, aloud, Swords of my burning heart!

CLAUS

Newly born I named him Babe of my joy and ruth: Kin of heart I claimed him, Yea, as my star of youth: Murderous—murderous— They maimed him!

THE OUTCASTS

(Semi-Chorus of Men)

Swords of my burning heart! Clang aloud, aloud, Tongues of fire and horror, Swords, swords in my soul!

> **FULL CHORUS** (Men and Women)

God!—God of the burning soul! Lord of the clanging sword! God, our God, from Thy kindling goal, Answer us, answer, Lord! How far and blind Shall the kings of our kind Beguile our hearts on their paths abhorred, Ere thou, O Christ of a race made whole, Come in Thy world-accord?

TENTH ACTION (The Wounded Pedlar)

STAGE A



HILE the OUTCASTS have been approaching, CASPAR has come forth from the Place of the Tree and watched them coming.

MELCHIOR, the THREE KINGS call, in song, to the dim Figures who draw near.

THE THREE KINGS

Who are ye that come singing in darkness, Outcast in the desert so late?

CLAUS

O Kings, it is me, Claus the Pedlar, And these be my children and mate.

THE THREE KINGS

Who are those there, your comrades, beside you: Those shadows, say, who should they be?

CLAUS

They be Death, and his young brother, Sorrow, And his old brother, Poverty.

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Carol 8. Trio and Solo. Ballad of the Kings and the Pedlar

THE THREE KINGS

Nay, but who is that other amidst them, That lifteth her face: What is she?

CLAUS

That is Song, and she is their sister Who waiteth upon them, all three.

(CLAUS, RUTH and the two CHILDREN have now joined the THREE KINGS.)

CASPAR

Goodman, why are the eyes of your woman So weary of look and so wild?

CLAUS

He hath broken our home, hath King Herod, And killed us our new-born child.

Now tell us, ye Kings that be Wise Men, Now tell us, where darkly we roam: What right hath a king of a pedlar To rob him his child and his home?

MELCHIOR

A king hath the right of his power To raise high his glory and crown.

CLAUS

Then it's Claus hath the right of a pedlar To pull his high glory adown.

CASPAR

A king hath his host and his captains To shatter the weak with his horde.

CLAUS

Then it's Claus he will be his own captain To sharpen the edge of his sword.

BELSHASAR

Nay, a king hath the might of his lordship 'Tis death for his slave to defy.

CLAUS

Then it's me hath the right of my manship To master his might or to die.

For 'tis God is my King and not Herod, And God he keepeth no slave; And liever than live Herod's henchman I'll lie a free man in the grave.

So I dared him his host and his captains, And struck for my babe a sword blow; And 'tis here they have broken my body; With Death now right soon must I go.

CASPAR

Nay, cheerly, Claus! Cheerly, goodwife and kiddies! Now you have wandered to a lucky place. Our Evergreen shall heal your hurt. Run, Elf, And fetch him balsam gum to balm his wounds.

(ELF runs within.)

CLAUS

No balsam gum can heal us our lost babe. Ruth, wife, where lieth now his little body?

RUTH

Death holds him fast. Death holdeth him forever.

MELCHIOR

Herod is king. Ye should have awe of kings And bow before them.

BELSHASAR

We are kings and wise, And warn you what you owe to Herod.

CLAUS

Herod!

I have paid back to Herod all I owe him— The red blade of this broken sword.

CASPAR

Brave said!

Give me the hasp. See, we will hang it here On this green bough, to be your shining cross Of freedom and remembrance—yea, a sign For Herods, when they pass, to pause and think on.

MELCHIOR

(To Belshasar)

He flouteth what we say!

(BELSHASAR shrugs, but motions MELCHIOR to listen. ELF returns.)

CASPAR

So, Pedlar Claus,

Lay-by thy pack, and rest you here till morrow;

Tend him, good Elf and Gnome. Now, mother, bravely!

These beasties shall make hospitality

And share their holy frost-cakes with your children, Wiping their eyes with love: And these war-weary, Glad of our Evergreen, shall take new hope From yon clear star.

(He helps CLAUS to rise and supports him to the foot of the Tree, where he places his pack for CLAUS to recline. The stretcher is borne away.

Far off, a long blast sounds.)

BELSHASAR

Hark, hark! What trumpet calls?

MELCHIOR

'Tis Herod's host. Take heed!

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RUTH

God shield us now!

(She turns toward CASPAR, who comforts her and the CHILDREN.)

ELEVENTH ACTION (The Persecuting Host)

AISLE I AND AISLE II

OURING forth from the Place of Empire, the HOST OF HEROD and their LEADERS, with spears held high, come marching on both pathways toward the Tree, singing in chorus as they march.

CHORUS

Go forth, ye host of power! Enslave, enslave the humble! 'Fore Herod's host their hearts shall cower, Their builded hopes shall crumble. Yea, Herod's host Shall trample them most Where they build their shrines of wonder.— Go forth with Vengeance' war-red ghost, Go forth, go forth in thunder! Tenth Chorus: B,4. Song of the Persecuting Host

TWELFTH ACTION (The Morning Stars)

STAGE A



TAYING his Followers, the CAPTAIN OF THE HOST approaches the THREE KINGS by the Tree.

In his hand he bears the Staff of Herod.

CAPTAIN

Halt here!—Behold them. They are found. Stand forth, ye Kings of East! What make ye So far from Herod's throne?

MELCHIOR

We journey home.

CAPTAIN

Know ye not Herod's wrath, what 'tis!— Why brought ye not your tidings back To him? Where is the Manger-Child?

MELCHIOR

We know him not.

BELSHASAR

Our trail we lost.

His star is dark.

CASPAR Nay, shineth yonder!

> CAPTAIN (Staring)

Where shineth?

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BELSHASAR

He is old and daft.

MELCHIOR

Hail, Captain of our lord his host! Welcome you are in Herod's name.—

> CLAUS (Rising painfully)

Nay, curst is he in Herod's name.— Give back my babe!

> CAPTAIN (Strikes him with his staff.) Take hence thy life!

(CLAUS falls back motionless. DEATH draws near and bends over him.)

DEATH

Come, Claus: Awake! Thy babe is here.

CLAUS

Friend Death, now raise me up.—Methought Thou hadst been deaf and dumb, but now We speak together.

DEATH

Here I hold

Thy little babe.

CLAUS

(Taking the muffled child)

O little babe, Now are we both in Death his arms Safe held from Herod's wrath. Be glad Thy father was not Herod's slave.

> (In his great cloak DEATH leads him away. RUTH stares after them.)

RUTH

Claus! Claus!-Now Death hath taken him.

CASPAR

Poor woman, do not weep for Claus. Friend Death is kind.

RUTH

Now are we left Alone, and none to shield us.

CASPAR

Yea,

A king shall shield ye.

CAPTAIN

King! What king Would shield these Herod's outcasts?

CASPAR

One

That's old and merry and cracked, and wears This crown of Caspar, king of babes Made fatherless.

MELCHIOR

(To the CAPTAIN, shrewdly) You hear?

BELSHASAR

He's mad!

CAPTAIN

Nay, give me sign what manner wise men And kings you are. Make sign, ye three, Now to this staff; for, by its power! All lesser kings who bow them not To Herod's staff shall lose their crowns. Bow! Bow ye low to Herod, lord of the world!

MELCHIOR

(Bows low to the staff.)

Herod, most High!

CAPTAIN

Thy crown keep safe.

BELSHASAR

(Bows low to the staff.)

Herod, the Mighty!

CAPTAIN

Keep thy crown.

CASPAR

(Remains standing, and smiles.)

Herod, the Poor!

CAPTAIN

What now! How name ye Herod—the poor?

CASPAR

Is he not poor To lose him both my brothers' crowns, And needs ask alms of me, old Caspar?— Ho, take him this my crown, poor Herod! And this, my sceptre, yea, and this My cloak also, and bid him keep His staff for kings of sadder heart To bow them to. Mine is too merry.— Now, kiddies, come: where be your cakes And frosting?

(Having put off his King's robe, sceptre and crown, CASPAR now appears in his under-jerkin of red, with long boots, like a Peasant.)

MELCHIOR

(To Belshasar)

Mad! Stark gone!

CAPTAIN

(Tossing aside the robe, sceptre and crown, speaks to his Followers.)

Lay-by

These tokens, men! Your spears! Your spears! This wise man shall learn wisdom now In Herod's name.

BELSHASAR

(Interposing)

Forbear! He raves.

(HE and MELCHIOR draw the CAPTAIN momentarily aside.)

RUTH

(To CASPAR)

Alas! How can you help us now And have no kingdom?

CASPAR

Ha, my dears!

A joyful heart finds many a job Can earn a kingdom.

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(Taking the little Boy and GIRL, one on each knee, he speaks to them and their Mother.)

Cheerly, woman! Thy goodman plied a goodly trade.— Poor Claus he was a pedlar: Ho! A pedlar now will Caspar be, And take thy goodman's pack and name, And ply his trade of children's toys By neighbor chimneys, house to house,

With jingling bells in winter air; And hearth to hearth the mirth shall spread Around the fire, and yule logs blaze, And apples toast, and stockings spill With candy dolls and popping tricks; And tiptoe boys and girls shall peep To spy the pedlar with his sack, And pay his wage in wonder coin Left on the hearthstone; and through all The evergreen and evergreen, Around the tree of light shall run— With fairy twinklings of His star— The laughter of a Manger Child. (Rising, he lifts the CHILDREN in his arms.)

Up, kiddies, now, with Pedlar Claus To find His kingdom!

CAPTAIN

(To Belshasar, brushing him and Melchior aside)

Nay, no more! He bowed not down, and shall pay dear For Herod's anger.

CASPAR

(Swinging the Pedlar's pack upon his back)

Ho, good hearts! Now, Sorrow, come! and Poverty! And you, dear Song, that serve on them! You, Elf and Gnome, and desert beasts! Ye children all, both old and young, Come, gather by this holy Tree And share with Pedlar Claus his pack!

CAPTAIN (Mocking)

Ho, Claus, the Pedlar-King! Hail Claus!

THE HOST OF HEROD

Hail, Claus, the Pedlar-King! King Claus! (They crowd toward him; his cap is struck off.)

CAPTAIN

(Raising the cap on a spear)

Lo, Claus, his crown! Behold the crown!

THE HOST

Hail to the crown! The Pedlar's crown!

CAPTAIN

Ye Spears of Herod, spill him wine! Yea, with his blood anoint him!

(Pointing their spears, the HOST turn to rush upon CASPAR, when suddenly A BLAZE OF LIGHT checks and astounds them: silverly A BLAST OF TRUMPETS sounds; the Evergreen branches burst into bloom of stars, while TREE, AS ANGEL, comes forth, holding sheathed a shining Sword, its hasp in a Crown of Holly.)

TREE

Stay!

Bow, Host of Herod! Bow ye down And hail our Saint of Evergreen:

Hail Santa Claus!

(TREE places the Holly Crown on CASPAR's head. A BURST OF SLEIGH-BELLS sounds, filling the air with their circlings of silver music.)

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Hail, dear Pedlar-King of our Evergreen: Santa! Santa! Holly-crown'd saint of us! Hail, eternal Wise man and child!

(During this Chorus and while it continues, SANTA—with beaming face—opens his great pack and distributes forth gifts to the CHILDREN, the OUTCASTS, and the HOST OF HEROD, who now rise joyfully and press round him. CHORUS now answers CHORUS across the assembled People, the deep voices of the Men's Chorus (B) now singing in Antiphony.)

CHORUS A

Part II. (Choruses A and B) The Tree

Who wakened her heart with song for the coming The Tree . of light?

Who harked for the morning stars their singing together?

CHORUS B

Antiphonal

The Tree! The Tree! The Evergreen Tree! The light of her heart hath blossomed— Hath bloomed with stars In the places of desert.

CHORUS A

Who nourished a dream in the lone wilderness, Where wild beasts kill one another and weary of killing?

CHORUS B

The Tree! The Tree! The Evergreen Tree! The power of her dream hath blossomed With blinding stars In the hearts of the terrible.

CHORUS A

Herod, lord of the world! Who hath defeated his power?

Antiphonal

CHORUS B

A star! A star doth confound him!

CHORUS A

Herod, sword of the world! Who hath surmounted his cunning?

Antiphonal

CHORUS B

A child! A child hath disarmed him!

CHORUS A

Herod, wrath of the world! What hath o'erthrown his dominion?

Antiphonal

CHORUS B

A dream! A dream hath survived him!

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Antiphonal

CHORUS A

(Appearing in their over-garments of WHITE, look toward the The Child place of HEROD while they sing.)

Where are ye that through the blindness of the slaughter, Through the terror and the tempest of the night,—

Where are ye that bowed you down to a helmet and a crown?

Have you seen the Child His stars? Have you heard the morning stars— His stars that sing around the Tree of light?

Will you hasten? Will you heed? Will you bind His wounds that bleed? Will you build his works of joy and charity? Are you risen? Do you hark? Are you coming through the dark— Are you coming, are you coming to the Tree?

CHORUS B

(In their over-garments of RED, rise from the place of their singing, and move forward in procession toward the CHORUS IN WHITE.)

Here are we that knew the blindness of the slaughter, Knew the terror and the tempest of the night:

Here are we that bowed us down to a helmet and a crown,

But we've seen the Child His stars, We have heard the morning stars—

His stars that sing around the Tree of light.

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Part III. (Choruses A and B) The Child We will hasten! We will heed! We will bind His wounds that bleed; We will build His works of joy and charity. We are risen, and we hark! We are coming through the dark— We are coming, we are coming to the Tree!

(As they approach the Tree, the Singers of CHORUS B lay off their RED over-garments and join the CHORUS IN WHITE. The two CHORUSES now form one.

Joined, in their singing, by the HOST OF HEROD, the OUTCASTS, and by ALL THE ASSEMBLED PEOPLE, they raise their Voices together.)

ALL

Child of God, forgive the blindness and the slaughter! Child of Pity, calm the terror of the night!

Yea, and all that bow them down to a helmet and a crown—

Let them see, like us, Thy stars! Let them join the morning stars—

Thy stars that sing around the Tree of light!

Child of Heaven, now we heed! We will bind Thy wounds that bleed;

We will build Thy works of joy and charity.

We are risen in Thy right:

We are singing through the night—

We are singing, we are singing to the Tree!

Alleluia! Amen!



THE MORNING STARS

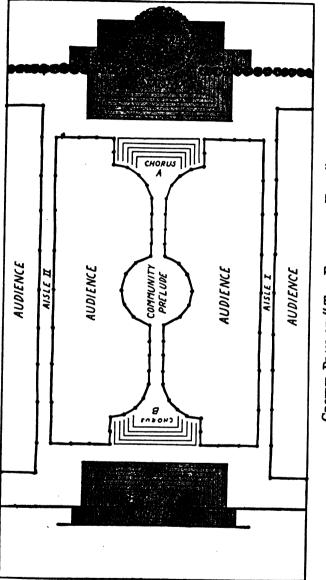
CHORUS

Child of Heaven, now we heed! We will bind Thy wounds that bleed, We will build Thy works of joy and charity: We are risen in Thy right, We are singing through the night— We are singing, we are singing to the Tree!

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COMMENTARIES ON THE MASQUE



(For Standard Outdoor Production—Alterable for Indoors)

(Not drawn to Scale)

GROUND PLAN OF "THE EVERGREEN TREE"

SUGGESTIONS FOR

COMMUNITY PRELUDE AND EPILUDE

I.—PRELUDE

In producing this Masque, different communities will doubtless wish to observe different ways of assembling to prepare and begin its production.

Some, especially those given on a small scale, may need and desire no prelusive form of ceremony, in action, speech or song.

For productions given on a larger scale, however, since a receptive and devotional state of feeling is greatly to be desired for its proper rendering and its impression upon those who witness and take part, it is strongly recommended that some kind of brief, general Song Overture of the people be held just before the Masque begins.

With this need in mind, the suggestions here made by the author are given for whatever service they may render to the desired end.

As Prelude to the production of "The Evergreen Tree," the following kind of Song Overture and informal Ceremony are suggested for such large-scale types of the Masque's production as are witnessed and performed by all classes, races, ages and creeds of the community.

After night-fall, on a winter's evening, let us imagine men, women and children of a town or city gathered together out of doors in a public square or park, or indoors within some levelfloored structure, to assemble by the community Christmas Tree, and to join in general singing under a leader.

The Leader will gather the best trained singers at a central place (indicated by the roped-off circle in the Ground Plan on the page opposite), and will start the community singing, or guide its spontaneous beginnings under his leadership.

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The trained Chorus will perhaps sing the "Adeste Fidelis," or "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," and the carollers will raise their voices in such old Christmas songs as may best appeal to them. So, perhaps for twenty minutes or half an hour, the singers will hold an informal Overture, in which all the gathered people may have joined.

Meanwhile, or beforehand, the Chorus will have put on their outer garments of red and white (designed according to Mr. Jones' costume suggestions), and will have divided into their two separate bodies—(r) the mixed voices, Chorus A, and (2)the male choir, Chorus B.

Then the Chorus Leader, or some one appointed by him, when the Masque is almost ready to begin, will rise at the centre—visible above the heads of the Chorus and the people and will speak to the assemblage, perhaps in his own words, or perhaps—using some portion or all of the speech here given —he will speak substantially as follows:

THE CHORUS LEADER

Neighbors and Friends—we have been singing together: Wherever friends sing together out of their hearts There God sings with them.

We believe many different ideas, many differing creeds.— To-night let us forget how we differ:

Let us remember only how we believe in one great thing— One Spirit in common—and this is its holy name: SINGING TOGETHER.

In old, old times, when plays were sung by the people, They built for them altars, sacred places of singing; And before their dramas began,

They used to pray there

And ask a blessing on the players, on the chorus and the people. And there, on those altars, they wrote the name of their Lord.

Friends, we are gathered here now by an old, old altar: The altar of Song—

Song of the people: old, young; happy, sad; rich and poor.

We cannot see it with our eyes, But we know it in our hearts; And there we can read what is written—the name of our Lord, Whose hallowed name is called SINGING TOGETHER.

Now out of our Singing will rise an Acted Pageant To tell an old story newly— The story of a Child. Over yonder, by the Christmas Tree—there is the Wilderness, The Place of Outcasts: Over there—is the Gate of a Palace: the Palace of Herod— Herod, the mighty king in the Bible, His place of Empire; And there—and there—are two Paths, that lead to the Tree.

Now let us sing one more carol, And take our places; Then listen, and watch for a sign, while the Chorus sings: And when all is over—each of us, all together, Let us raise up our hearts and voices to one great Spirit That will make of us all one people: The Spirit whose glorious name is SINGING TOGETHER.

So concluding, the Chorus Leader and his Assistant Leader will accompany their Choruses (the one—Chorus A, the other —Chorus B) to the places where they sit during the Masque (indicated on the diagram) in front of their respective stages.

As they go to their places, the Choruses will sing the carol "Good King Wencelas." Then, when all is still, the Masque of "The Evergreen Tree" will commence with the Chorus of the Wilderness.

II.—EPILUDE

At the conclusion of the Masque, it is not advisable that any other formal ceremony should follow.

The participants, the children and the people will naturally be gathering about Santa Claus and partaking of the gifts from his pack, or otherwise sharing in happy festivity.

In order, however, that the Masque shall not end in a general, disordered scattering of the assemblage, it is recommended that those in costume, including the Choruses (now united), shall march in good order to the places of their costuming, or to such other places as the Director of the Masque may designate, singing together stanzas of the Masque hymn—easily learned, in unison, to the appealing music of Arthur Farwell—

> "Glory and serenity, Beauty of desire, Bless to-night this holy tree And our candle-fire."—etc.

THREE MONOGRAPHS

I.-DRAMATIZING COMMUNITY SONG

By PERCY MACKAYE

The allurement of the communal field in drama is its freshness of opportunity—its infinite potential variety.

Definitions have not yet hedged it; criticism has not yet charted, nor pedagogy catalogued its boundless horizons and creative streams; commercialism has not yet invaded its unstinted harvests, to store and can them for the market, under the labels of middlemen.

So, in approaching this realm of "The Evergreen Tree," I have felt something of that thrill of discovery which must more often have been felt in earlier days on American soil: a feeling, I think, such as John Muir once told me he experienced when he gazed first, from the top of a great tree, over uncharted miles of the redwood region. Only here I have seemed to look upon the conjoining of a great, structural continent—the Drama—with a primal sea—the tides of Community Song, now carolling in quiet inlets, now choral with tempestuous music from fathomless deeps.

If, then, I were to suggest the nature of this kind of community drama by a topographical line, rather than by a definition of theory, I would do so perhaps by a line such as this:



wherein the rising pyramid would represent an emerging contour of that continent (the Drama), whose base is submerged and fused with those singing tides (Community Music).

So perhaps, as dramatist, I might suggest the coming together of those two realms or "movements" of social art, to which my friend Arthur Farwell refers in his comments, as composer.

Obviously, this coming together implies a new technique of the community dramatist—a technique not for a hollowed amphitheatre (that of the traditional theatre), but for a level assembly place (that of the cathedral): where visually, from a floor thronged with choral communicants, there rises a sharp focal point of dramatic action—a small raised stage, for such few acting characters as are typical of the community dramatic ritual.

So the setting of the Masque takes form according to its nature (as indicated by the Ground Plan opposite page 60, and by the worded description in the front of this volume). And so, as the dramatic architect by his design shapes the conditions for the coöperation of the composer, he shapes also the conditions for the coöperation of the scenic producer in this case, Robert Edmond Jones, whose fresh and fertile genius becomes in a production as significant for the eye as the creative ardor of Arthur Farwell does for the ear.

In the following pages, each of these representative artists describes briefly his distinctive approach and viewpoint toward the ensemble production. As well as may be in brief space, we hope thus to suggest—for all who read the Masque with a view to its performance on however simple a scale—something of our own feelings for the right creative and interpretive approach to this fresh field, in which we are planning to coöperate personally in at least some one production of "The Evergreen Tree."

In the pioneering attempt of this Masque, my own purpose is to dramatize community singing—for conditions of our own time, especially in America, during this new, formative period which the world war has begun.

In other lands and ages of folk art, community song has been dramatized, as it can only be dramatized vitally, by artists moved by the spirit of religion; and relics of such forms still

survive amongst us in rituals of the churches. But these rituals necessarily have attained their growth—nobly classic at their best, at their worst—dully disintegrated.

Now new forces of an age religiously urgent for democracy demand a re-creation of the forms of folk art, plastic to the living currents of the new time. These currents, though continuous from the past, widen now between strange banks and other horizons; though perennial, they require fresh coördination.

The carol, for instance, and the ballad—old forms of folk art—survive with us only in their archaic appeal. We in America cannot hope or wisely desire to revive them for what they once were—spontaneous expressions of continuous communal life in villages and peasant heaths, for that life has gone from us, not to return. But we can do this—and in so doing, give them new life. We can relate them definitely to a form of art for us still living and indigenous—to the drama, and essentially to that community kind of drama which is but now beginning its renascence of world forms portentous for the future.

So in "The Evergreen Tree," perhaps for the first time, I have embodied the acted carol and the acted ballad as structural parts of a dramatic unity—a communal dramatic unity, to which the forms of folk music are allied and essential.

Here, then, comes into being a new kind of music drama far removed from the connotation of opera—a Song Drama of the people. From this, speech will not be absent; but it will necessarily be related to the simplicity of folk song and folk poetry, in being rhythmic and chantable in its cadences taking on forms of spoken poetry definitely related to the people's poetry of song.

This Song Drama, too, of its nature—though susceptible of splendid pageantry—will depend, for its dramatic conflict, far less on wills opposed in visual action than on contrasted emotions of song—of choral song, thus bringing again the Chorus back to its rightful place, heard and visible, among the people as with the Greeks; only now for us it becomes a *double* Chorus, oppositional in will and definitely divided in two parts (the antiphonal Choruses, A and B, of this Masque, costumed also in visual contrast), until its parts become reconciled in emotion,

when—both aurally and visibly—the two unite, as at the end of "The Evergreen Tree."

This much at least expresses my conception of a new art implied in the present work—not as an *a priori* theory, nor as a generalization for others—but as the working method which has seemed for me best adapted to perform a definite task in the community field involved.

The theme of the Masque I will only touch upon here to say that, in inventing its legend of Caspar and Claus, I hope I may not wholly miss that unconscious approval, which would be dearer than any other—the belief of the children.

Cornish, N. H., September, 1917.

II.—COMMUNITY MUSIC AND THE COMPOSER

By Arthur Farwell

The birth of our national self-consciousness in music, from the creative standpoint, occurred less than twenty years ago. Not until the last two decades did the prodigious musical studies of our young people at home and abroad produce composers in sufficient quantity to make American music, its character and potentialities, a national question.

Even so brief a period as this has, however, sufficed to witness a succession of distinct phases in our national musical attitude and achievement, phases so strongly contrasted as to represent radical changes of artistic tendency and almost complete reversals in belief and direction of effort.

The last and greatest of these changes is that one which has withdrawn attention from the composer as an abstract phenomenon, and from fruitless theories of American music, and has centered it upon the immediate service which music can render to the people of our nation. In the long run, the nation cannot go one way and its music another. That the ideal in the spirit of music must sooner or later, in this country, be reconciled to and wedded with the ideal of the spirit of democracy, is an idea which has met with general acceptance only in the last three years, although it has been ardently championed by a few individuals for nearly two decades.

Taking its rise in the compelling necessity of this principle, the "community music" movement has swept the country in the last few years, plunging it anew into violent discussion, annihilating personal theories and products of the musical hot-house, demanding the wholesome and the true—and giving the people expression.

In this movement the composer of the music for "The Evergreen Tree" has been immersed. In the communal dramatic work and ideas of Percy MacKaye, he has recognized a similar development in the art of the theatre. It was inevitable that these two movements should come together and unite their powers in seeking to make a helpful contribution to the quest for a drama—and should it not truly be a music drama?—that shall

serve most appropriately the deep need of the American people for expression in such a form.

Anything which may prove to be of worth in my compositions for "The Evergreen Tree," I owe to the new influx of life which I have received from my contact with the soul of the people, as revealed in the movement which is making us a singing nation.

Cornish, N. H., September, 1917.

III.-DESIGNS FOR "THE EVERGREEN TREE"

By Robert Edmond Jones

The drawings in this book will prove most helpful if they are thought of merely as notes to be amplified or varied according to the special needs of each community production.

Different communities will develop the main scheme in various ways.

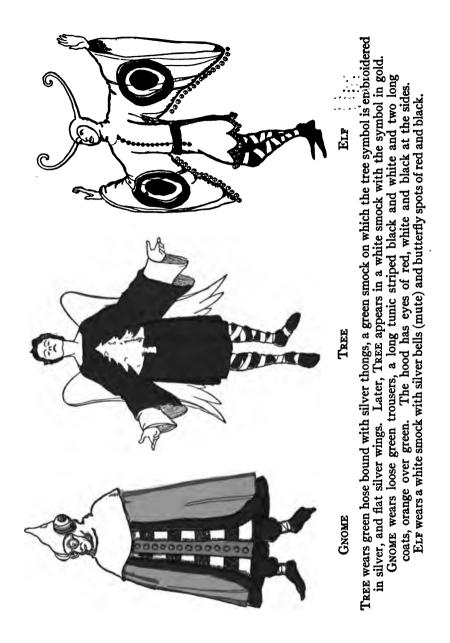
The production indicated here is on a large scale in the open air; but the arrangement of stages and aisles is equally impressive in the smallest church.

Facilities for lighting will vary widely in different communities.

Don't be discouraged if you haven't an elaborate electric equipment at your disposal. Think how beautiful the Masque might be, done by candle-light in an old country meetinghouse!

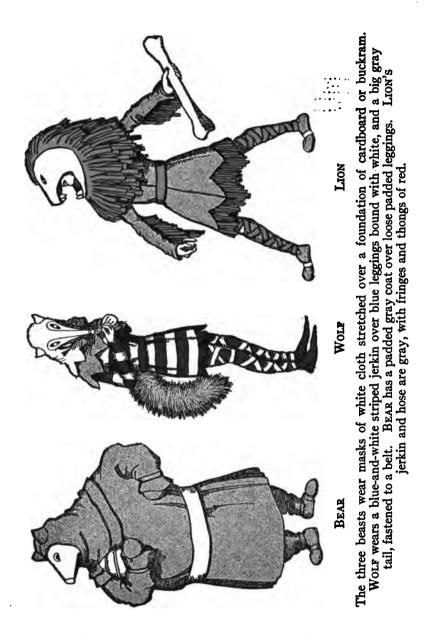
The costumes are extremely simple, and depend largely for their effectiveness on the dignity with which they are worn.

The two *Choruses* wear surplice-like overgarments, red or white. *Elf* suggests a butterfly: *Gnome*, a beetle: *Tree*, a Fra Angelico angel. *Wolf*, *Bear* and *Lion* wear masks, rudely made, like mummers of the Middle Ages. *Wolf's* tail is attached to a belt, which he pulls from side to side.



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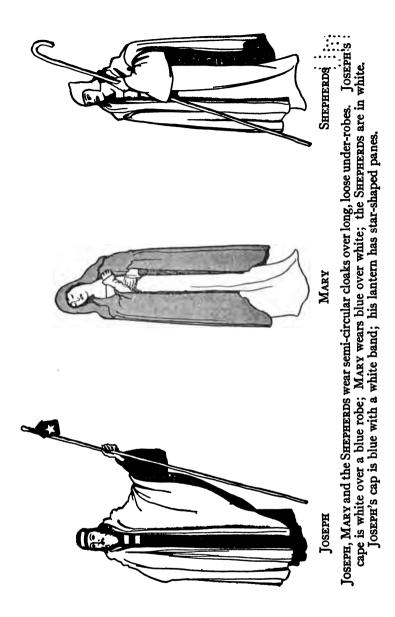
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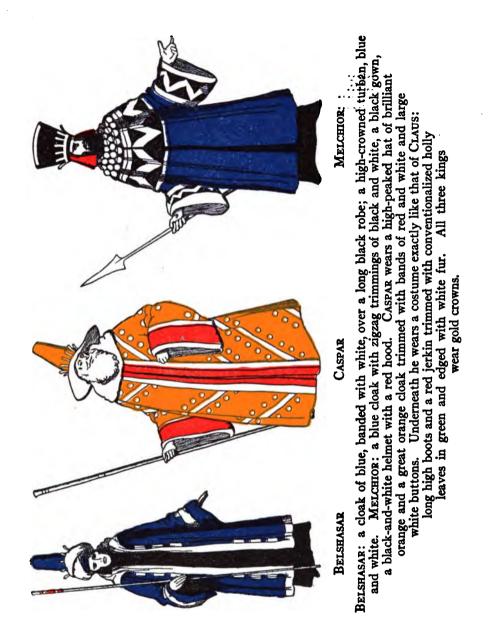


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a great scarlet cloak edged with a scimitar design in white. The CAPTAIN'S shield is silver and black; the other, silver and scarlet.

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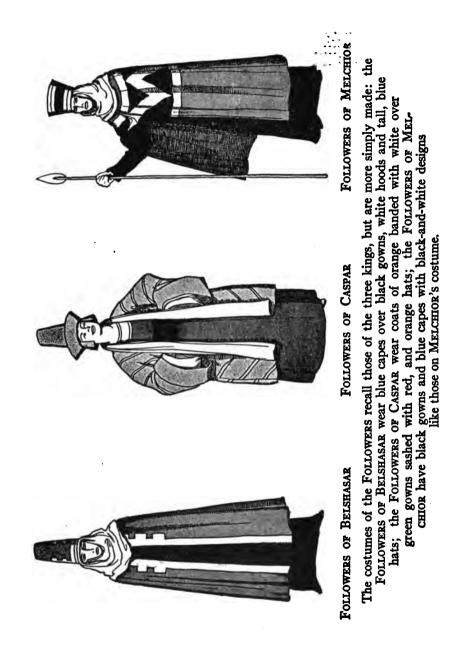
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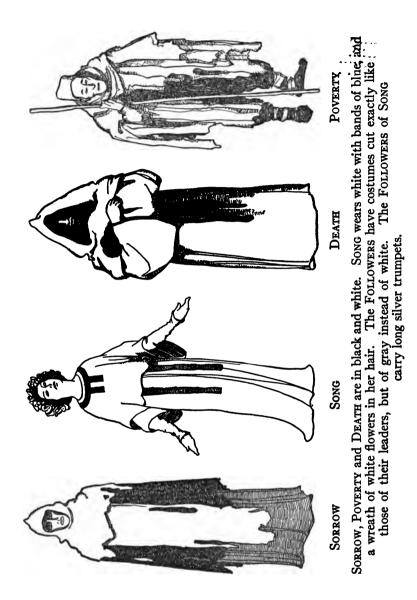
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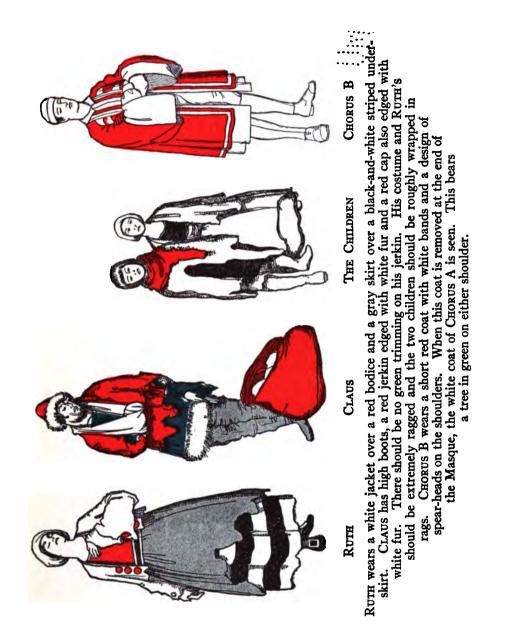
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DESIGNS FOR "THE EVERGREEN TREE"

Nearly all the other costumes consist of a simple, cloaklike undergarment, over which are worn tunics and robes to characterize the Host of Herod, the Shepherds, the Followers of the Three Kings, or the Outcasts. There is nothing realistic in these clothes: they merely *suggest* the characters, broadly, as if they were made by children for a child's play. They may be carried out by any dressmaker in inexpensive materials muslin, cambric, cheesecloth, flannel—keeping always to a few brilliant, flat colors: strong red, strong blue, black and white, gray, and orange.

Make these costumes yourselves: use your own ingenuity in cutting and draping them: wear them with a sense of what each costume means. Then your ceremony will be beautiful.

New York, September, 1917. ACTION OF "THE EVERGREEN TREE"

The Masque is performed in Twelve Actions, taking place as follows:

First Action: Stage A (Chorus; Speech).

Second Action: Aisle I (Carol; Processional).

Third Action: Stage A (Carol; Speech).

Fourth Action: Approaching Space and Steps A; then Stage A (Chorus; Carols; Speech).

Fifth Action: Stage B (Chorus; Speech).

Sixth Action: Stage A (Chorus; Speech).

Seventh Action: Aisle II (Carol; Processional).

Eighth Action: Stage A (Carols; Speech).

Ninth Action: Stage B and Aisle I (Choral Song; Chorus; Processional; Pantomime).

Tenth Action: Stage A (Carol; Speech).

Eleventh Action: Aisle I and Aisle II (Choral Song; Processional).

Twelfth Action: Stage A (Chorus; Speech).

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